

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: MORE FROM COLSON

FOR BREMER FROM S/PRS

"

LONDON FOR AMB. MCCLOSKEY FROM S/PRS

BARBARA WALTERS - NBC TV TODAY SHOW:

BARBARA WALTERS INTERVIEWED COLSON ON THE TODAYSHOW. HER QUESTIONS WERE DIRECTED TO STATEMENTS MADE BY COLSON PUBLICLY AND DURING OFFICIAL INQUIRIES. COLSON PLEADED GUILTY IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY -- INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT BE TRIED IN COURT AND IN THE PRESS -- SMEARS SHOULD BE OUT. THOUGH HE HAD INFORMED THE PRESIDENT ON WATERGATE TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF THE DATE USUALLY ACCEPTED THIS DID NOT IMPLY GUILT ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT AS HIS INTENT WAS NOT AND IS NOT KNOWN AND WHAT THE PRESIDENT NEW THEN WAS A MATTER OF OPINION AND NOT HARD FACTS. HE URGED THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COUNSEL TO OBTAIN THE HARD FACTS NEEDED FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION. HE DID NOT DISCUSS CLEMENCY FOR HUNT WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE URGED

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THE PRESIDENT TO CONFRONT JOHN MITCHELL WHICH THE PRESIDENT

DID NOT DO. HE URGED THE PRESIDENT TO FIRE JOHN DEAN.
THERE FOLLOWS THE EXCHANGES ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE --

WALTERS -- HOW MUCH DID HENRY KISSINGERKNOW ABOUT THE
WORKINGS OF THE PLUMBERS' UNIT?

COLSON - I AM AFRAID I CAN'T ANSWER THAT BECAUSE THAT MAY
COME UP IN TESTIMONY I MAY BE GIVING IN THE ELLSBERG
TRIALS. I AM NOT ALLOWED TO TALK ABOUT IT. I SUPPOSE I
COULD TALKAROUND IT BY SAYING I DON'T THINK THERE IS VERY
MUCH IN WAY OF SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN THAT HENRY
WASNT AWARE OFHENRY KISSINGER WAS PRESENT AT ONE
OF THE EARLY MEETINGS AT WHICH DAVID YOUNG'S ASSIGNMENT
TO THE PLUMBERSUNITWAS DISCUSSED AND I ATTESTED TO THAT
IN A SWORN AFFIDAVIT.

WALTERS: DO YOU THINK THERE WERE SECURITY MEASURES THAT
DR. KISSINGER DID NOT KNOW ABOUT?

COLSON: HE WAS THE PRIME FELLOW CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND
SO IT WAS A LOGICAL CONCLUSION THAT AS HE WAS PRIMARILY
CONCERNEDABOUT IT HE WOULD BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT
STEPS TO STOP IT.

WALTERS: THE STEPS?

COLSON: WELL, I AM NOT GOING TO TESTIFY HERE OR ANY
PLACE ELSE AS TO WHAT I KNOW FIRST HAND AND I CAN'T TELL
ALL THE STEPS AS I DIDN'T KNOW ALL THE STEPS. AL HAIG WENT
OVER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND TALKED ABOUT IT AND
TALKED TO THE FBI ABOUT IT. THERE WEREN'T MANY
INSTANCES WHEN HAIG DID THINGS WITHOUT KISSINGER'S APPROVAL
OR ACCEPTED KISSINGER'S RULING BUT THAT IS JUST THE
PATTERN OF RELATIONSHIP OF THOSE TWO MEN. I DON'T KNOW
IN THIS SPECIFIC CASE BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW THOSE WERE
BEING MADE.

WALTERS: WILL THERE BE A POSSIBILITY THAT DR. KISSINGER
WOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN (UNCLEAR) AND IN THE
COLLATING OF THE PSYCHIATRIC PROFILE THAT LEAD TO THE
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BREAK-IN OF THE PSYCHIATRISTS OFFICE?

COLSON: -- I WOULD LOVE ANSWER THAT BUT THAT IS
RIGHT IN THE GROUND WHERE I'SS BE TESTIFYING. I NOT
ONLY RESPECT THE JUDGE'S ORDER BUT I RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF
THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THAT TRIAL AND I JUST -- MAYBE WHEN
WE GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO TALK I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION
MORE SPECIFICALLY.

(TODAY PROMISES MORE OF THIS CONVERSATION LATER THIS WEEK
AND NEXT) SISCO

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